1	2	3
11.	Jharkhand	15479
12.	Karnataka	23091
13.	Kerala	40252
14.	Madhya Pradesh	23223
15.	Maharashtra	27567
16.	Manipur	983
17.	Meghalaya	339
18.	Mizoram	40
19.	Nagaland	332
20.	Orissa	14699
21.	Punjab	48238
22.	Rajasthan	54087
23.	Sikkim	81
24.	Tamil Nadu	69220
25.	Tripura	250
26.	Uttarakhand	3578
27.	Uttar Pradesh	41909
28.	West Bengal	54297
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	403
30.	Chandigarh	2275
31.	Daman and Diu	41
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	18
33.	Delhi	45486
34.	Lakshadweep	243
35.	Puducherry	1890

Task force on crime against International students

1399. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australian Prime Minister has established a Task Force on crime against International students under leadership of National Security Adviser;

(b) if so, whether in spite of assurance given the Indian students have again been attacked and attacks are continuing;

(c) if so, the latest position and the steps Government proposes to take to meet situation as students of India and other countries *i.e.* U.S., U.K. and Canada have also been facing same problem; and

(d) the total number of students killed and the compensation India has provided to these students?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Australian Government has set up the Prime Minister's Taskforce on Crimes Against International Students to coordinate with the federal Departments and State Governments involved on measures to ensure the safety of international students in Australia.

(b) and (c) There have been 83 cases of assault on Indian nationals including students in Australia since 25th May, 2009.

The issue has been taken up with the Government of Australia at the highest level. It has been unequivocally conveyed that such attacks should not be allowed to happen and that it is the responsibility of the Australian authorities to ensure the well-being and security of our students in Australia. A brief note on steps taken by the Government is enclosed as Statement. (*See* below).

(d) No student has been killed in attacks over Indians reported from Australia, recently.

Statement

A brief note on the steps taken by the Government

The issue of attack on Indian students in Australia has been taken up at the highest level. In a telephonic conversation, when the Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd called our Prime Minister immediately after his assumption of office, our concerns at the attacks on Indian students were conveyed to him suitably. The Prime Minister made a reference to this in the course of his reply to the debate in the Parliament on the motion of thanks for the President's address to the join sitting of both houses. The Minister of External Affairs has also conveyed our deep concerns to his counterpart in the Government of Australia.

2. It has been conveyed to the Australian government that such attacks should not be allowed to happen and that it is the responsibility of the Australian authorities to ensure the well-being and security of our students in Australia. Our High Commissioner and Consuls General in Australia are in constant touch with the Australian authorities both at the federal as well as state level, including the Ministers, senior officers and the police authorities, besides the Australian Foreign Office, the Universities and the students.

3. The Government of Australia has in response to these demarches, strongly condemned these attacks. The Australian authorities have conveyed their firm commitment to ensuring the safety and security of Indian students in Australia. When the matter came up in the Australian Parliament, the Australian Prime Minister as well as the Leader of the opposition and several Members of Parliament denounced the attacks and called for immediate steps to ensure the safety and security of Indian students studying in Australia. Premier of the Victoria state has further promised that the state would do everything in its power to track down the perpetrators of these cowardly acts and bring them to justice.

4. Some of the steps taken at the instance of the Government of India are as follows:—

(i) Launch of a police operation specifically to investigate the incidents of attacks on students.

(ii) The provision of a 24 hour hotline (in Hindi and English) by a Community Reference Group of provide support, information and advice to Indian students who are victims of crime.

(iii) Representations have been made to the concerned State Governments in Australia on issues conveying the experiences of students including study and stay.

(iv) The setting up of a Police Community Reference Group to improve communications between the police and the students community.

(v) This Police Community Reference Group has had several meetings.

(vi) Stressing the need to bring in basic and essential infrastructural changes for more police presence at sensitive areas like railway stations and also late in the night.

(vii) Constant monitoring of the well being of Indian students including those who have been hospitalized and looking after their treatment.

(viii) The Australian Government has also stated that it was considering the possibility of amending the existing law to enlarge the definition of offence to include "inciting violence against people for their race, religion or ethnicity and violence against individuals and for inciting violence against individuals on the basis of the individual's race, religion, ethnicity or nationality." The proposed amendment would strengthen the police response to the attacks against Indian students. It has also been contemplated to amend the existing legislation to provide for enhanced sentence for racism related offences.

5. On 23rd June, 2009, a delegation led by Ms. Lisa Paul, Secretary, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Government of Australia, called on the Hon'ble Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs. Government of India's deep concerns over the matter were conveyed to the

Australian delegation. In response to suggestions made by the Indian delegation, the Australian side undertook to consider the following:—

(i) Registration of Education Agents;

(ii) Ensuring quality of education provided at private educational institutions;

(iii) Steps to ensure that Education Agents provide necessary pre-departure briefing to Indian students properly, on the basis of the latest advisory booklet published by the Australian Education Department for international students;

(iv) Steps to prevent exploitation of Indian students by unscrupulous employers who underpay them and employ them beyond the maximum prescribed 20 hours a week;

6. A delegation of educational providers from Australia met Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on 6th July, 2009. Various measures to address the problems related to safety and security of Indian students were discussed in these meetings. It was decided to set up a Joint Working Group to recommend to the two Governments measures required to regulate the activities of Education Agents in India and design appropriate pre-departure orientation programmes.

7. An advisory for students going for studies to Australia has been put on the website of this Ministry.

BPL people and urban poverty alleviation

1400. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any correct statistics of the number of people in urban areas in the country living Below Poverty Line (BPL), the details, State-wise; and

(b) since when the poverty alleviation programme has been started in the country and the number of people who have already been covered and the detailed action plan to cover all urban poor?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Planning Commission releases estimates of urban poor from time to time based on the natinoal sample surveys conducted by the National Sample Sruvey Organisation (NSSO). From the latest large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) (61st Round), covering the period July, 2004 to June, 2005, two different consumption distributions for the year 2004-05 have been obtained. The first one is from the consumption data collected using 30-day recall period for all the items. The other distribution is obtained from the consumer expenditure data collected using 365-day recall period for five infrequently purchased non-food items, namely clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses and 30-day recall period for the remaining items. These two consumption distributions have